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VIKRAMADITYA

COURAGE AND HONOUR WIN THE DAY

Vol 568





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Amar Chitra Katha Pvt Ltd

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ISBN 978-81-8482-164-2

Published by Amar Chitra Katha Pvt. Ltd., 201 & 202, Sumer Plaza,
2nd Floor, Marol Maroshi Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai- 400 059. India

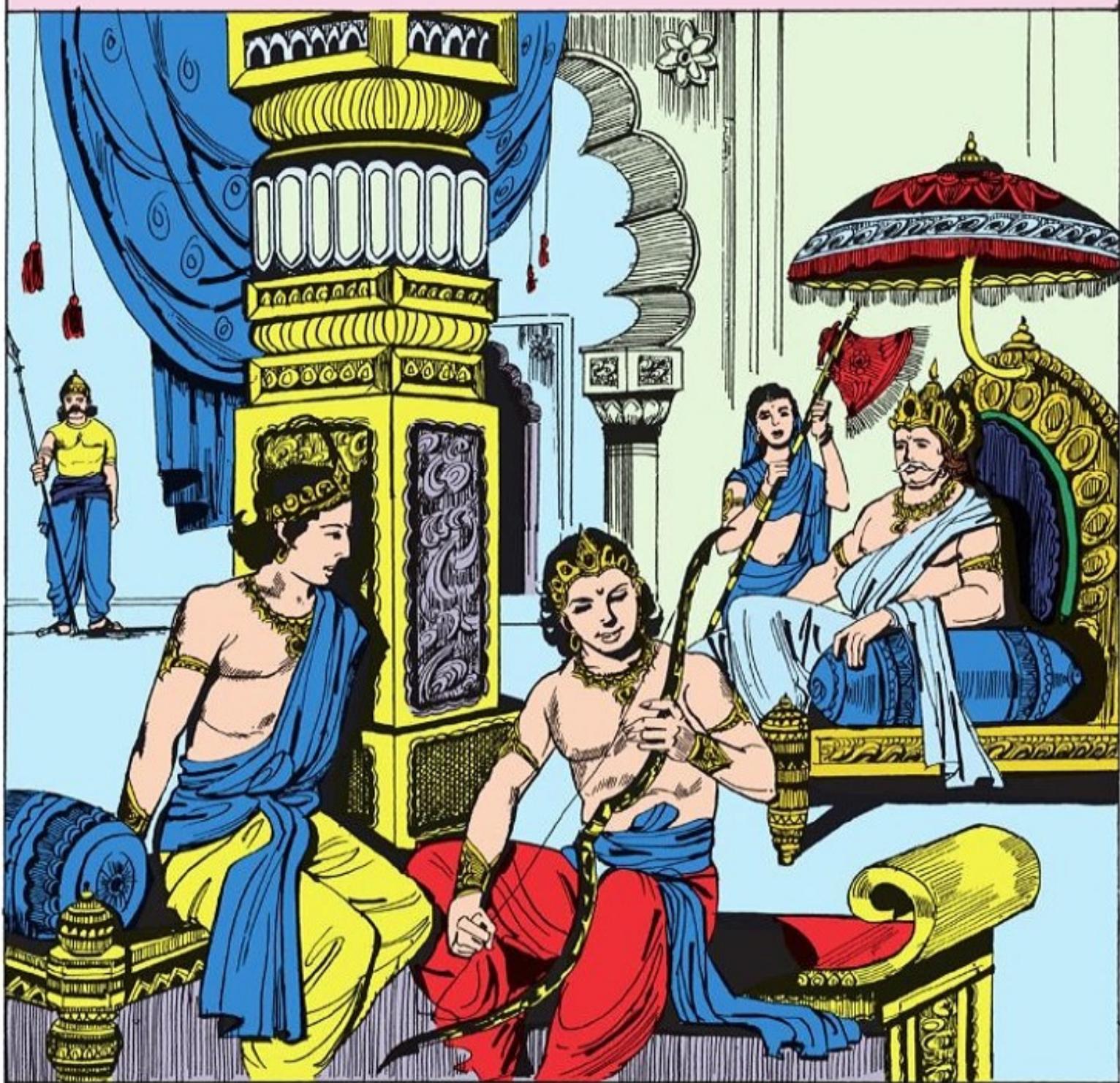
Printed at Zirius Images Pvt. Ltd, Thane- 401 104.

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Vikramaditya



ABOUT 1,600 YEARS AGO, A VAST PART OF INDIA WAS RULED BY A GREAT KING, SAMUDRAGUPTA. PATALIPUTRA WAS ITS CAPITAL. THE KING HAD TWO SONS - RAMAGUPTA AND CHANDRAGUPTA.

THEY HAD A NUMBER OF PLAYMATES, SONS OF THEIR FATHER'S
MINISTERS AND OFFICERS. ONE DAY -

PRASEN,
SHALL WE
GO TO THE
RIVER BANK
TO PLAY?

THAT
WILL BE
GREAT
FUN!

THE RIVER
BANK IS
HAUNTED BY
WILD BEASTS.
LET US SEE
WHAT
FATHER
SAYS.



THEY WENT TO THE KING.

MAY WE GO TO
THE RIVER BANK
FOR A WALK?

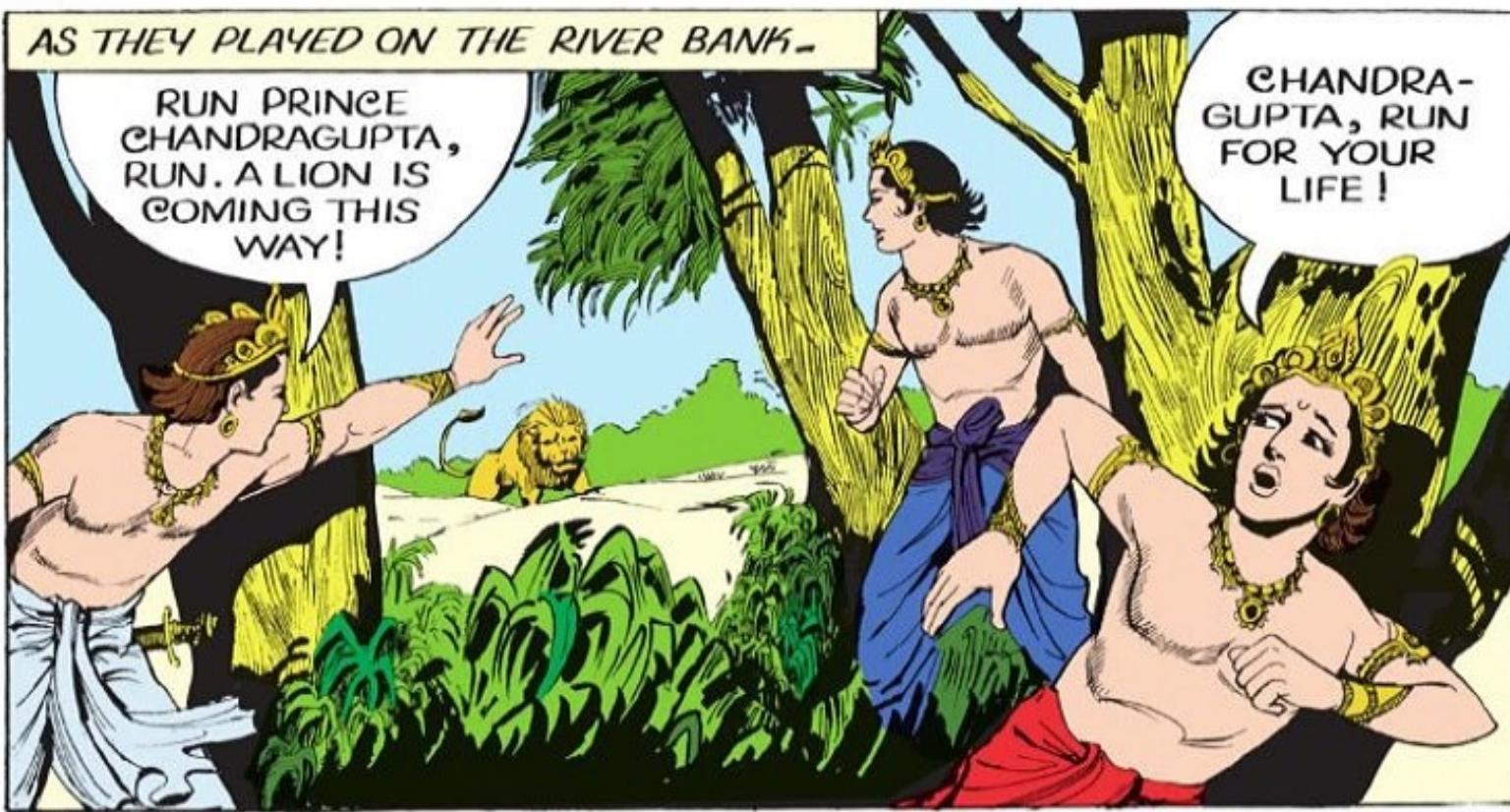
CERTAINLY
MY SONS;
YOU HAVE
NOTHING TO
FEAR.



AS THEY PLAYED ON THE RIVER BANK-

RUN PRINCE
CHANDRAGUPTA,
RUN. A LION IS
COMING THIS
WAY!

CHANDRA-
GUPTA, RUN
FOR YOUR
LIFE !



BUT CHANDRAGUPTA STOOD
HIS GROUND.

LET IT COME.
I'LL FACE IT.



AS THE LION ATTACKED HIM,
CHANDRAGUPTA SIDE-STEPPED AND -



RAMAGUPTA,
HE IS BRAVE,
ISN'T HE ?

HE WAS
JUST TRY-
ING TO
SHOW OFF.



AS THE PRINCES DID NOT RETURN IN TIME, SAMUDRAGUPTA HAD SENT HIS SOLDIERS TO LOOK FOR THEM.

OH-OH! A DEAD LION AT THE FEET OF PRINCE CHANDRAGUPTA!



THE SOLDIERS RUSHED BACK AND INFORMED SAMUDRAGUPTA.

(THAT'S LIKE MY SON. I HOPE HE IS NOT HURT.



AT THAT MOMENT THE PRINCES AND THEIR FRIENDS ARRIVED FOLLOWED BY A CHEERING CROWD.

I SAW HIM KILLING THE LION!

HE IS FEARLESS INDEED!



WON'T YOU
REWARD THE
PRINCE,
MAHARAJ?

HOW SHALL I REWARD YOU,
MY SON? AH! YOU WILL
BEAR THE BURDENS OF
THIS VAST KINGDOM
OF MINE!

MINISTER,
DID YOU
HEAR THAT?

DON'T WORRY,
MY PRINCE!
AS FAR AS I CAN
HELP IT, YOUR
RIGHT WILL NOT
BE TAKEN AWAY
FROM YOU!

A FEW YEARS
LATER, WHEN
SAMUDRAGUPTA
DIED -

MINISTER, PLEASE SEND FOR
THE ROYAL PRIEST TO PERFORM
MY CROWNING
CEREMONY.

DON'T BE
IMPATIENT,
PRINCE
RAMAGUPTA!

CHANDRAGUPTA MIGHT...

IT'S TOO SOON. YOUR FATHER'S ASHES ARE STILL WARM.

WHEN A FEW DAYS HAD GONE BY -

YOUR HOLINESS, PLEASE MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS TO CROWN PRINCE RAMAGUPTA.

BUT OUR LATE MAHARAJ HAD WISHED PRINCE CHANDRAGUPTA TO SUCCEED HIM.

BUT PRASEN! THE RIGHT OF SUCCESSION IS MY ELDER BROTHER'S.

THE CROWNING CEREMONY WAS PERFORMED.

MAY YOU SAFEGUARD THE TRADITIONS OF YOUR ANCESTORS AND THE COUNTRY, SIRE!

HE WILL SAFEGUARD NEITHER OF THE TWO. TAKE MY WORD FOR IT.

LATER RAMAGUPTA MARRIED DHRUVA DEVI, A PRINCESS OF MATCHLESS BEAUTY.

WELCOME, CHANDRA-GUPTA. THE QUEEN HAS BEEN ENQUIRING ABOUT YOU.

I HAD HEARD OF YOUR HEROIC DEEDS EVEN BEFORE I WAS MARRIED, CHANDRAGUPTA.

THE FOLLOWING DAY...

MADHAVI, THERE IS NO EXAGGERATION IN WHAT THEY SAY OF CHANDRA-GUPTA.

YES, HE DESERVES ALL THEY SAY AND MORE.

PRINCE CHANDRA-GUPTA RENOUNCED THE CROWN FOR YOUR HUSBAND.

IS THAT SO?

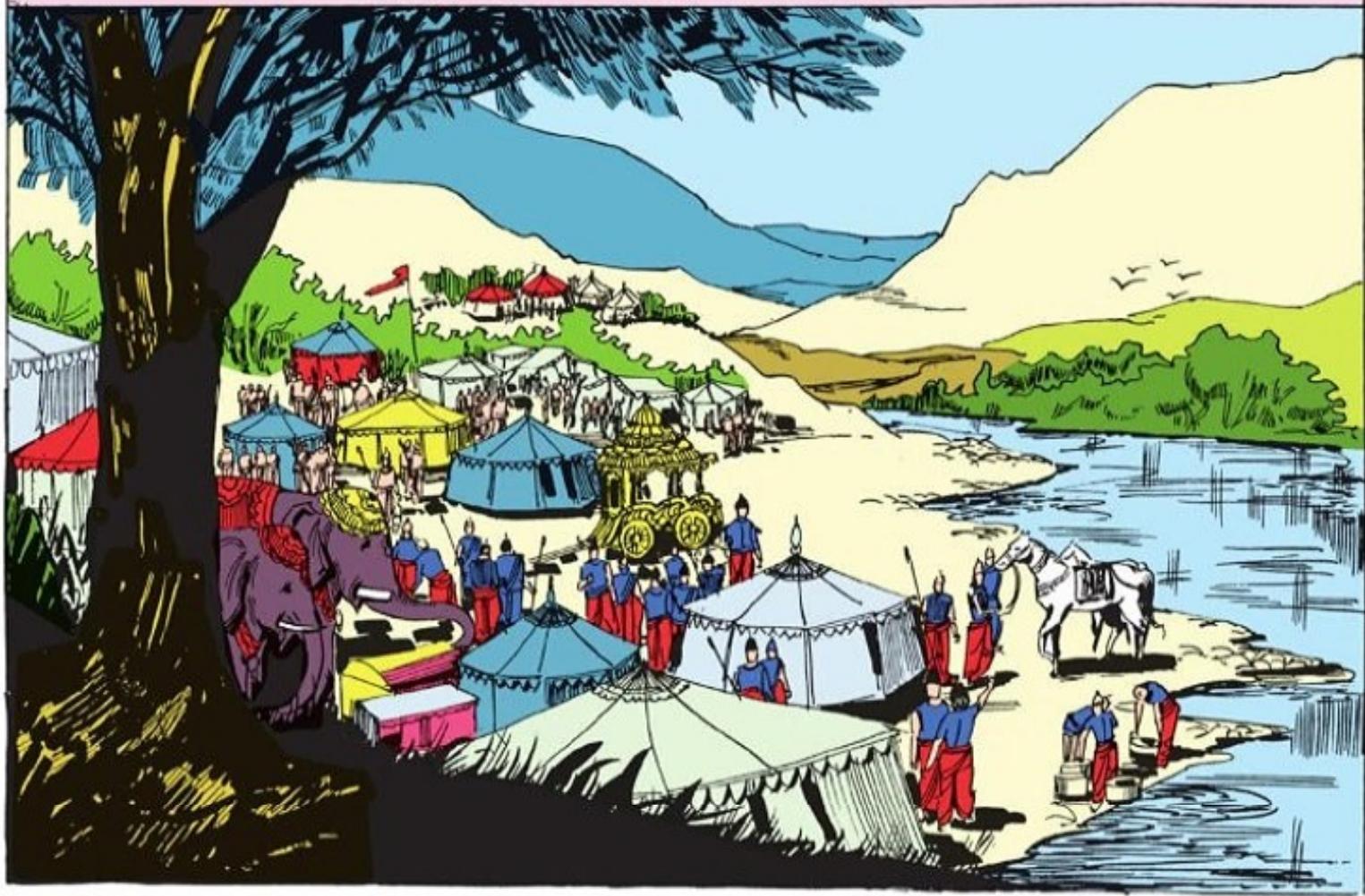
ONE DAY...

MY LORD, I AM TOLD PRINCE CHANDRAGUPTA GAVE UP THE CROWN FOR YOU!

YOU MAY HAVE HEARD MANY MORE THINGS.

MY QUEEN, NOBODY EVER MAKES SUCH A SACRIFICE FOR ANOTHER.

SOME MONTHS LATER, THE KING WENT ON AN EXPEDITION TO THE SOUTHERN REGION OF THE KINGDOM. WHEN IT GREW DARK, THEY ALL CAMPED NEAR A RIVER.



NEXT MORNING WHEN THEY STARTED MARCHING AHEAD -



SOON A SOLDIER CAME RUSHING TO THE KING.



SOME TIME LATER -

I BRING BAD NEWS, O KING! THE PASS THROUGH WHICH WE CAME HAS ALSO BEEN CAPTURED BY THE SAKAS. WE ARE TRAPPED!

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NOW? WE WILL BE MASSACRED. FIND SOME WAY OUT, MINISTER.

FIND OUT WHAT THE SAKA KING WANTS. OFFER HIM A PEACE TREATY.

A TREATY? IS THERE NO ALTERNATIVE?

GO AWAY FROM HERE. DON'T MEDDLE IN THE MATTERS OF STATE.

SOON THE KING'S MESSENGER RETURNED.

WHAT DOES THE SAKA KING SAY?

MAHARAJ, I DON'T DARE REPEAT IT! !

HAVE NO FEAR.
DOES HE DEMAND
A VERY HEAVY
PRICE?

HIS DEMAND,
SIR, IS
SHAMEFUL!

I'LL PAY ANY
PRICE FOR
PEACE!

MAHARAJ, HE
SAID MAHARANI
DHRUVA DEVI WAS
TO HAVE BEEN
MARRIED TO HIM,
A LONG TIME
AGO!

HE DEMANDS
THE HAND OF
OUR QUEEN?

THAT'S
RIGHT!

THIS
IS RIDICULOUS.
ISN'T THERE
ANOTHER WAY OUT?

MAHARAJ,
WE ARE NOW
AT THE MERCY
OF THE SAKAS.



THEN I
HAVE TO
GIVE A
SERIOUS
THOUGHT
TO THIS.

THE SECURITY
OF OUR COUNTRY
MUST BE OUR
FIRST CONCERN
MAHARAJ!

AND WHAT
ABOUT THE
TRADITIONS
OF OUR
ANCESTORS?

TRADITIONS
CANNOT BE SAVED
UNLESS THE COUNTRY
IS SECURE,
SIRE !

THEN I
HAVE TO
GIVE UP
DHRUVA DEVI.
MESSENGER,
INFORM HIM -
I ACCEPT !



DISASTER HAS BEFALLEN US, MAHARANI !

WHAT IS IT, MADHAVI ? HAS MAHARAJ AGREED TO A TREATY ?



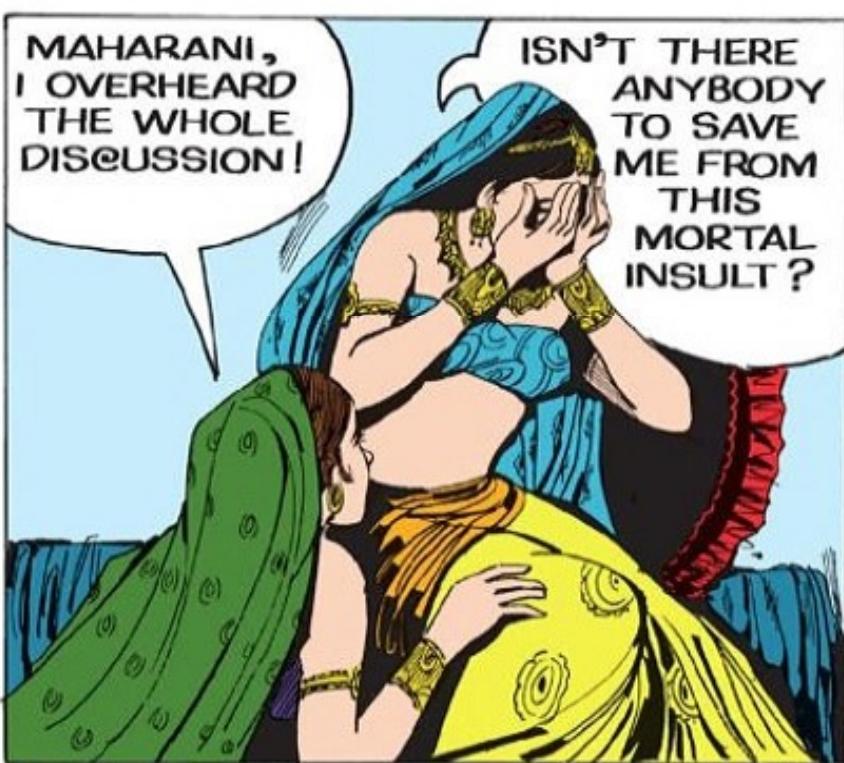
YES - AND YOU ARE THE PRICE !

DID I HEAR YOU RIGHT, MADHAVI ?



MAHARANI, I OVERHEARD THE WHOLE DISCUSSION !

ISN'T THERE ANYBODY TO SAVE ME FROM THIS MORTAL INSULT ?



YES, THERE IS - PRINCE CHANDRAGUPTA ALONE CAN HELP YOU.

IS THAT REALLY POSSIBLE ? HURRY ! GO TO HIM.

LATER -

MADHAVI HAS TOLD ME ALL, O QUEEN !

PRINCE, YOUR BROTHER HAS BETRAYED ME.



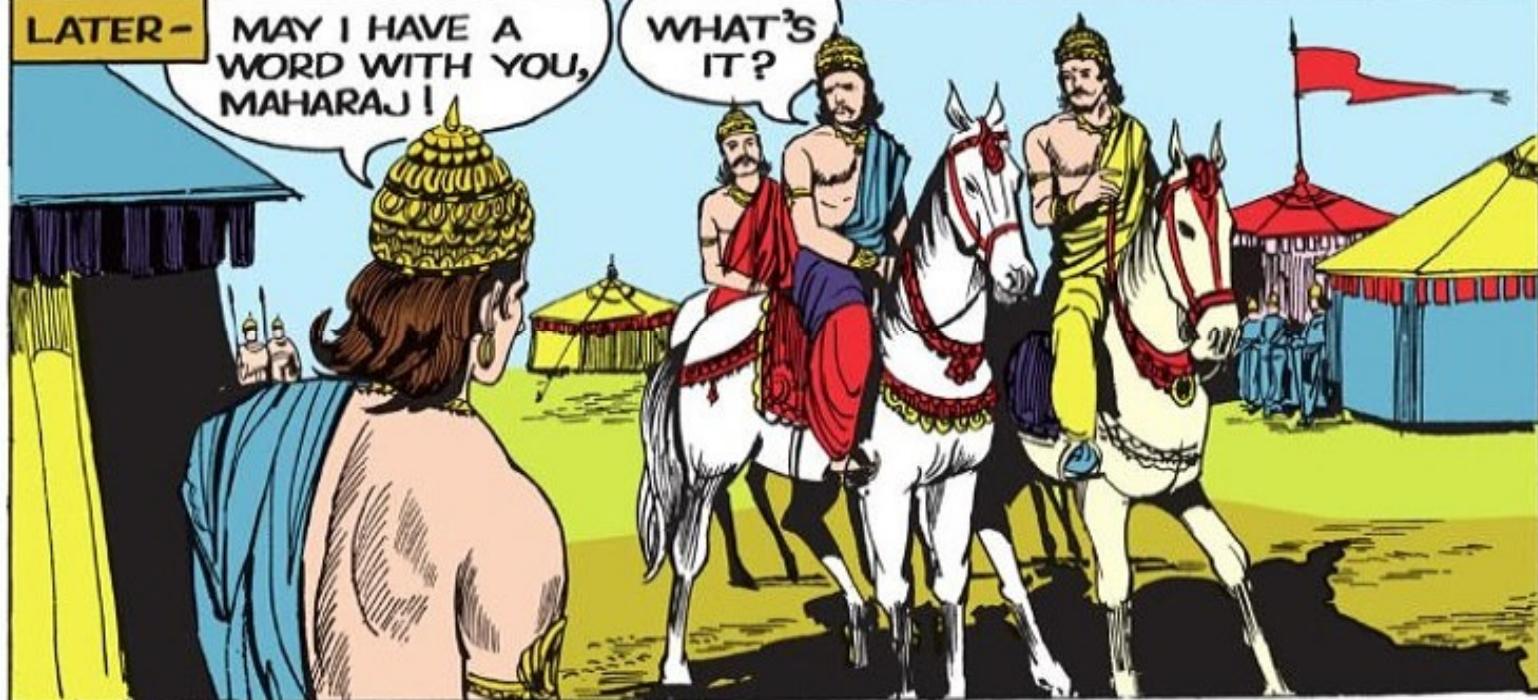
PLEASE CALM
YOURSELF. NOBODY
DARE INSULT YOU
WHILE I AM
ALIVE.

THE PRINCE
ALWAYS HONOURS
HIS WORD,
MY QUEEN!

LATER-

MAY I HAVE A
WORD WITH YOU,
MAHARAJ !

WHAT'S
IT?

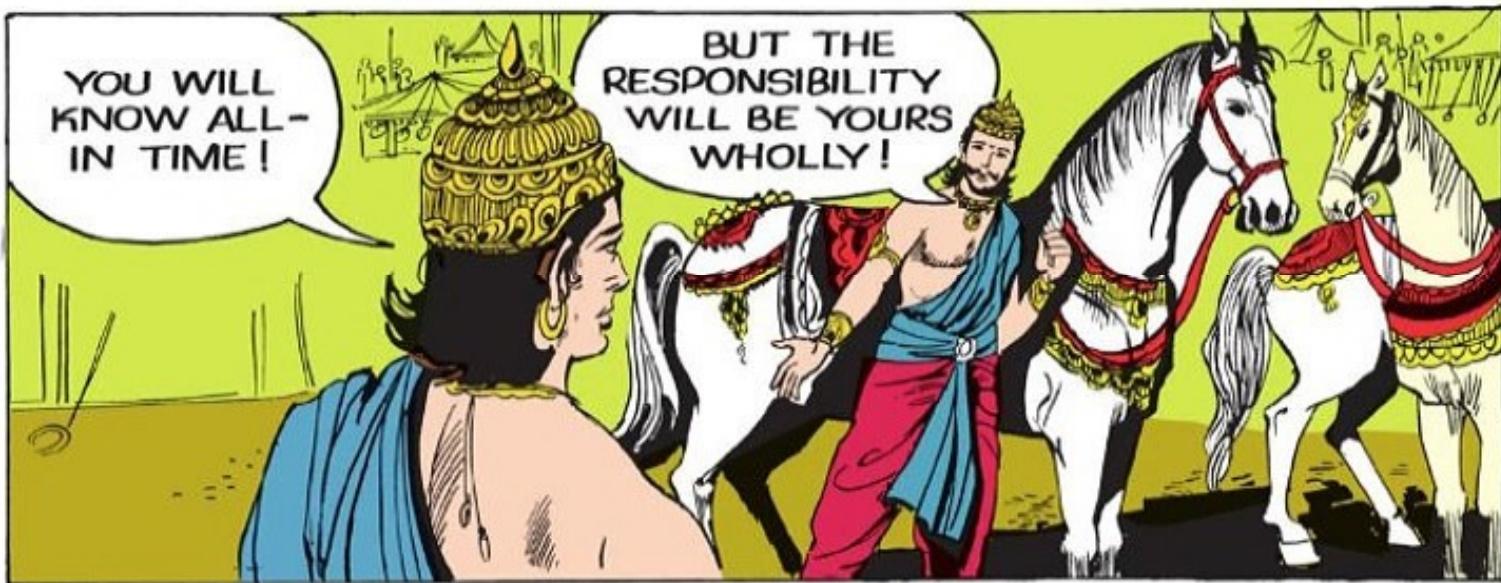
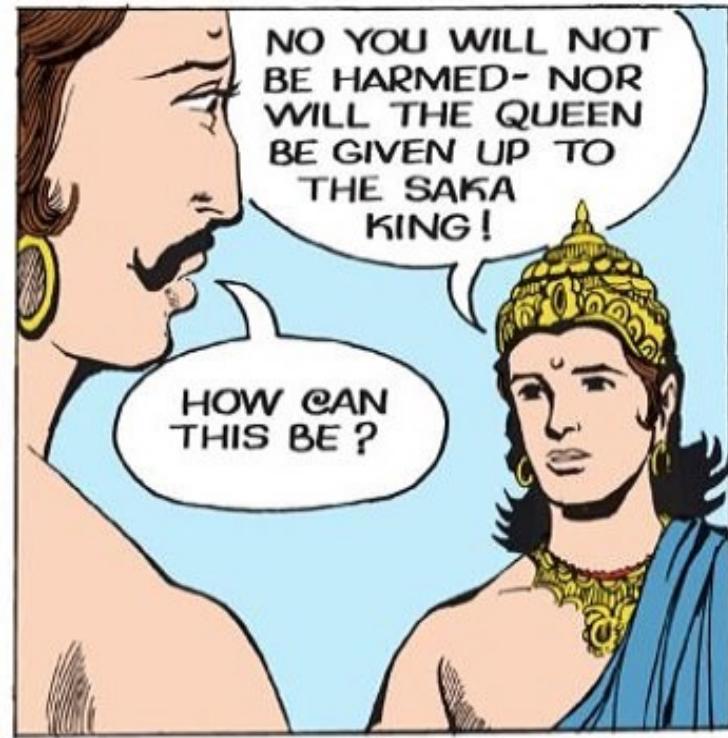
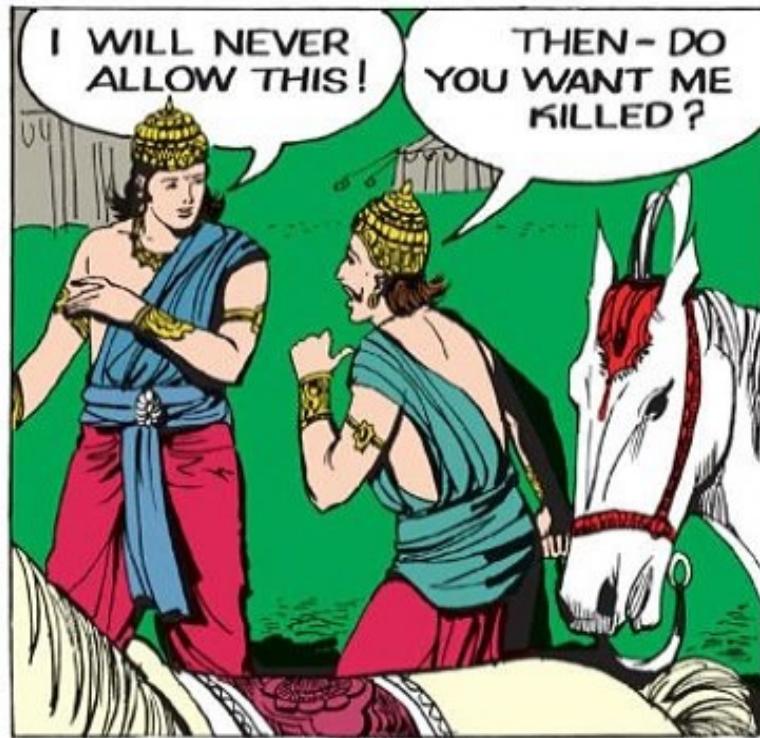


MAHARAJ, HAVE
YOU REALLY
AGREED TO HAND
OVER MAHARANI
DHRUVA DEVI
TO THE
SAKA KING ?

THERE IS NO
ALTERNATIVE,
CHANDRAGUPTA.

THIS MUST
BE DONE - TO
SAVE OUR
COUNTRY,
PRINCE.





THE SWORD IS
WELL HIDDEN -
ISN'T IT
MADHAVI ?

YES,
PRINCE,
COMPLETELY.
NO ONE
WILL EVER
SUSPECT !

THEN,
PERMIT ME
TO DEPART,
DEVI !

GOD BE
WITH YOU
PRINCE !

TAKE
AWAY THE
PALANQUIN .

HAIL,
BHAVANI !

THE PALANQUIN APPROACHED THE SAKA KING'S CAMP.

OUR SAKA
KING DESERVED
THIS MOST
BEAUTIFUL
OF WOMEN -
AND HE HAS GOT
HER !

WITH AN ARMY
LIKE HIS, HE IS
INVINCIBLE !

O SAKA KING.
MAHARANI DHRUVA
DEVI'S PALANQUIN
IS ALMOST
HERE!

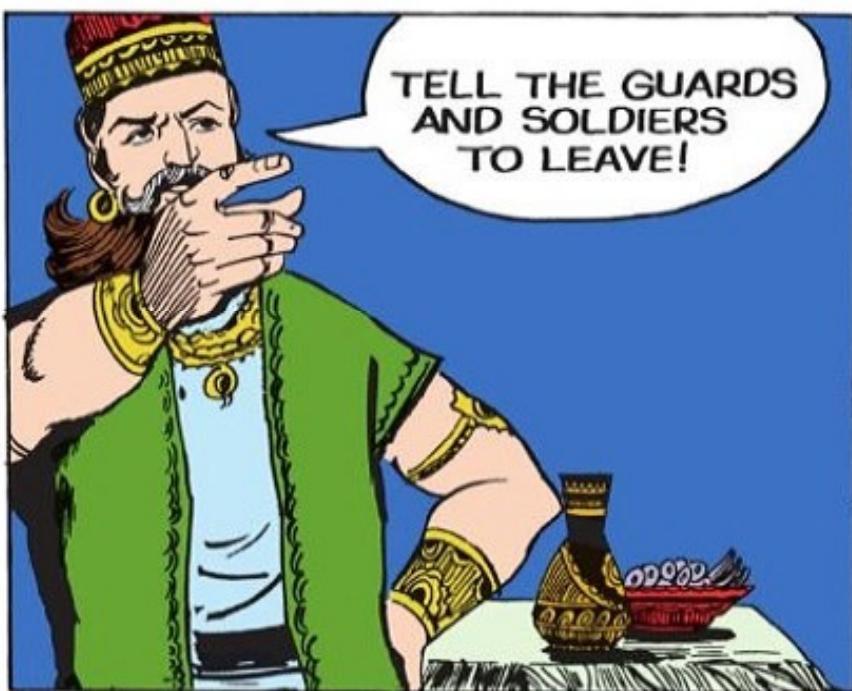


ARE YOU ALL
SET TO ACCORD
HER A ROYAL
RECEPTION?

YES
SIRE!

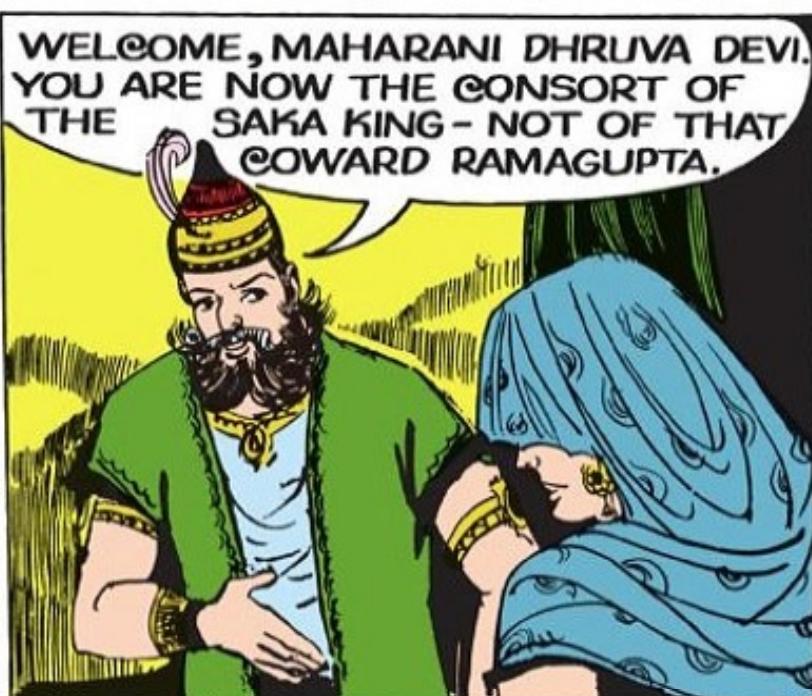
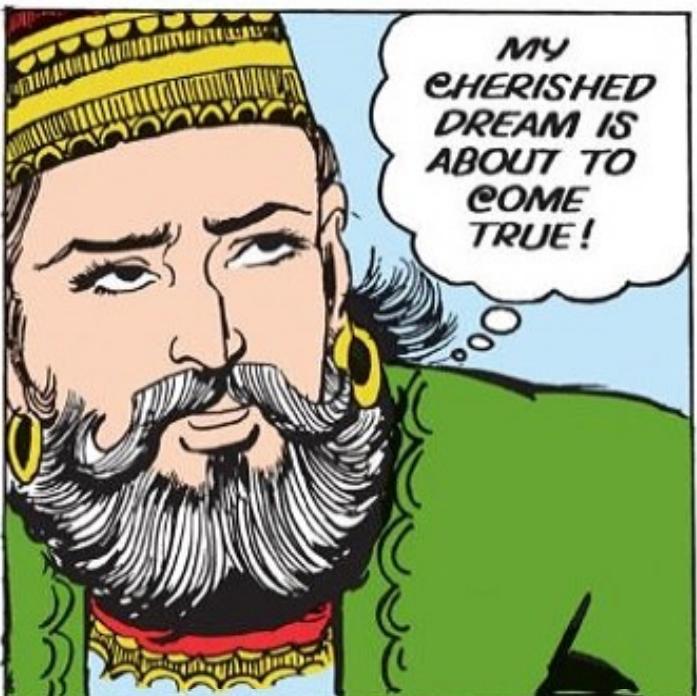


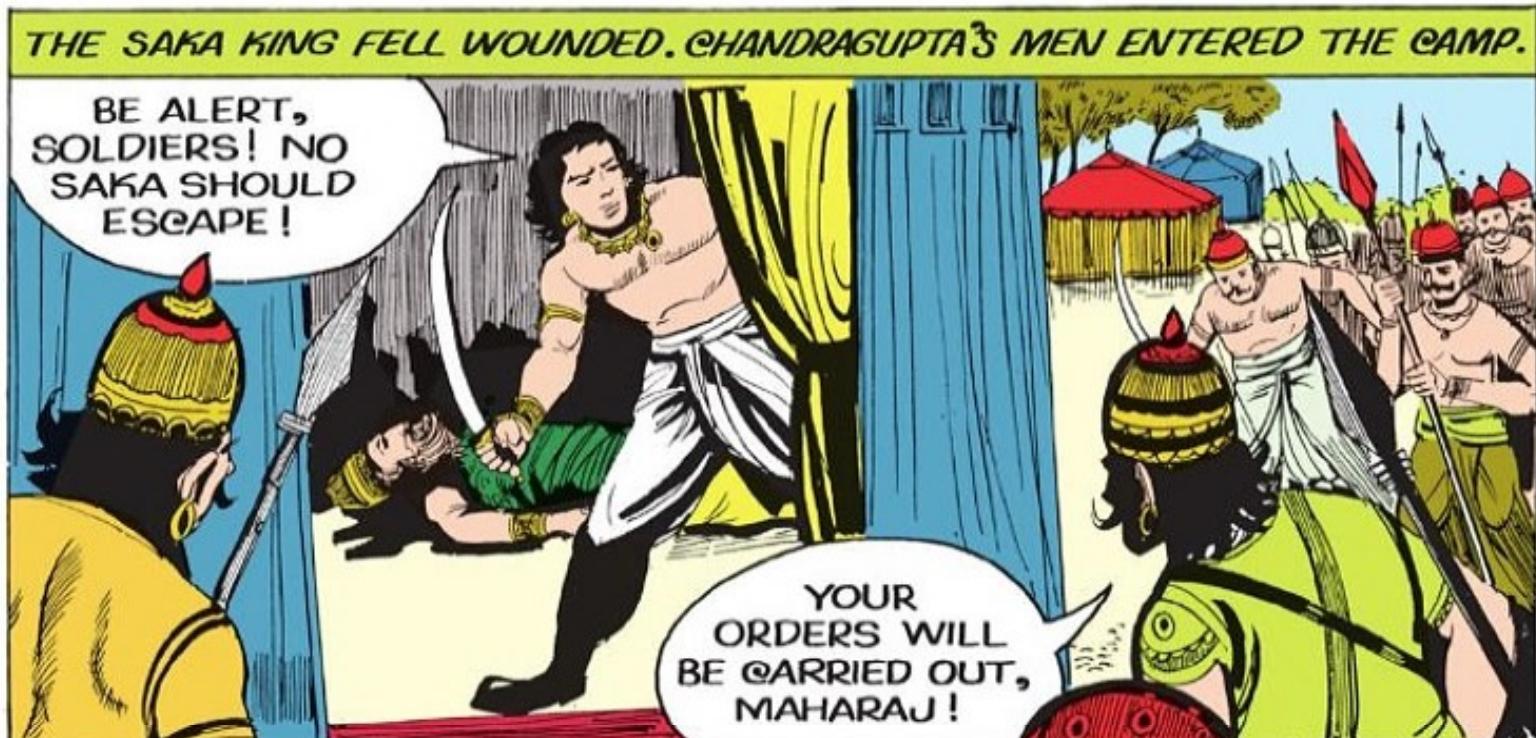
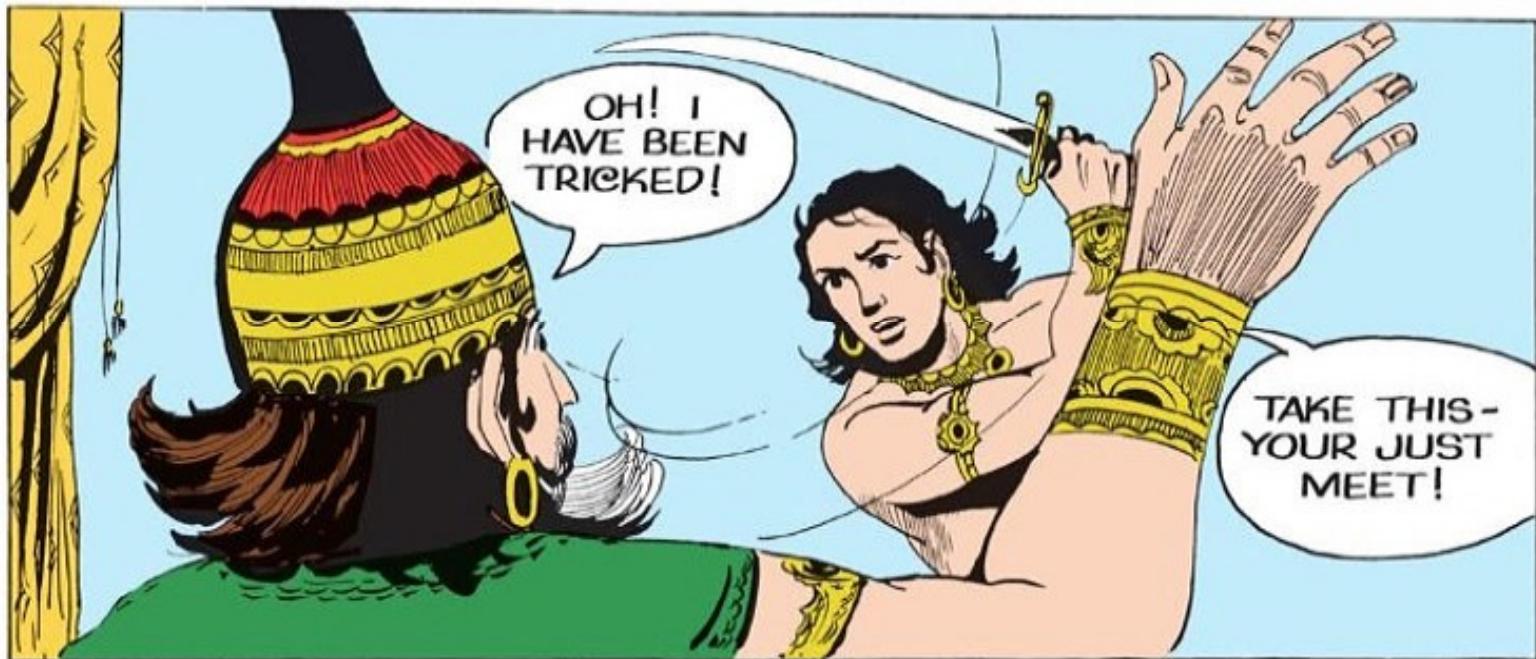
TELL THE GUARDS
AND SOLDIERS
TO LEAVE!



MY
CHERISHED
DREAM IS
ABOUT TO
COME
TRUE!

WELCOME, MAHARANI DHRUVA DEVI.
YOU ARE NOW THE CONSORT OF
THE SAKA KING - NOT OF THAT
COWARD RAMAGUPTA.





AND, ALSO,
NOTIFY THE
SQUAD WAITING
CLOSE BY.

VERY
WELL!



IN A SHORT WHILE, THOUSANDS OF SAKA TROOPS WERE PUT TO DEATH.



VICTORY TO PRINCE
CHANDRAGUPTA!

LONG LIVE
MAHARANI
DHRUVA
DEVI !



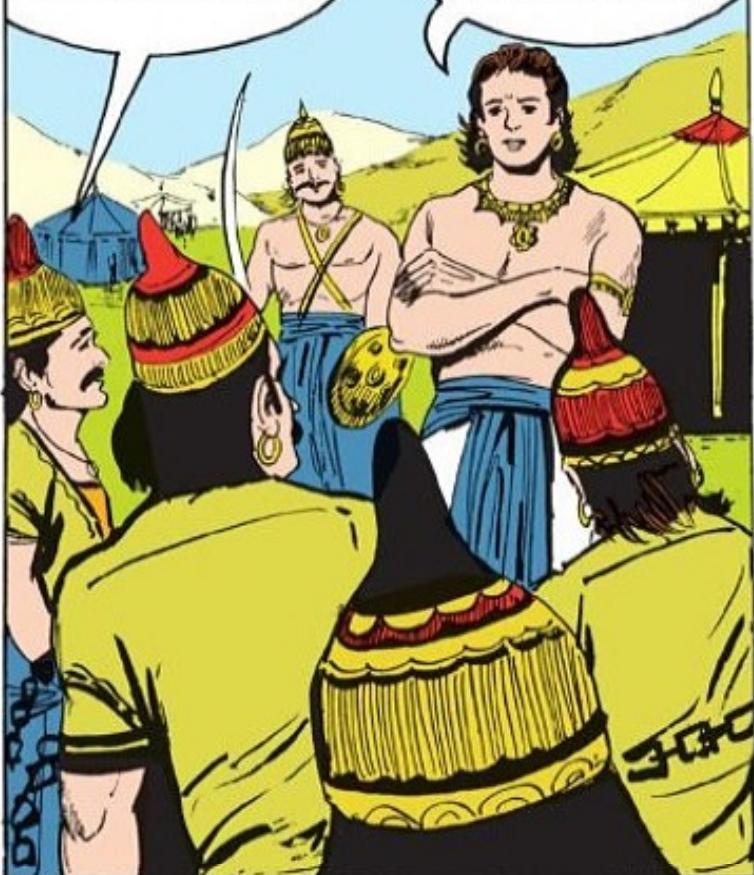
HUNDREDS OF SAKA SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS WERE TAKEN PRISONERS.

OUR KING, THE
GREAT CONQUEROR, IS
NO MORE!



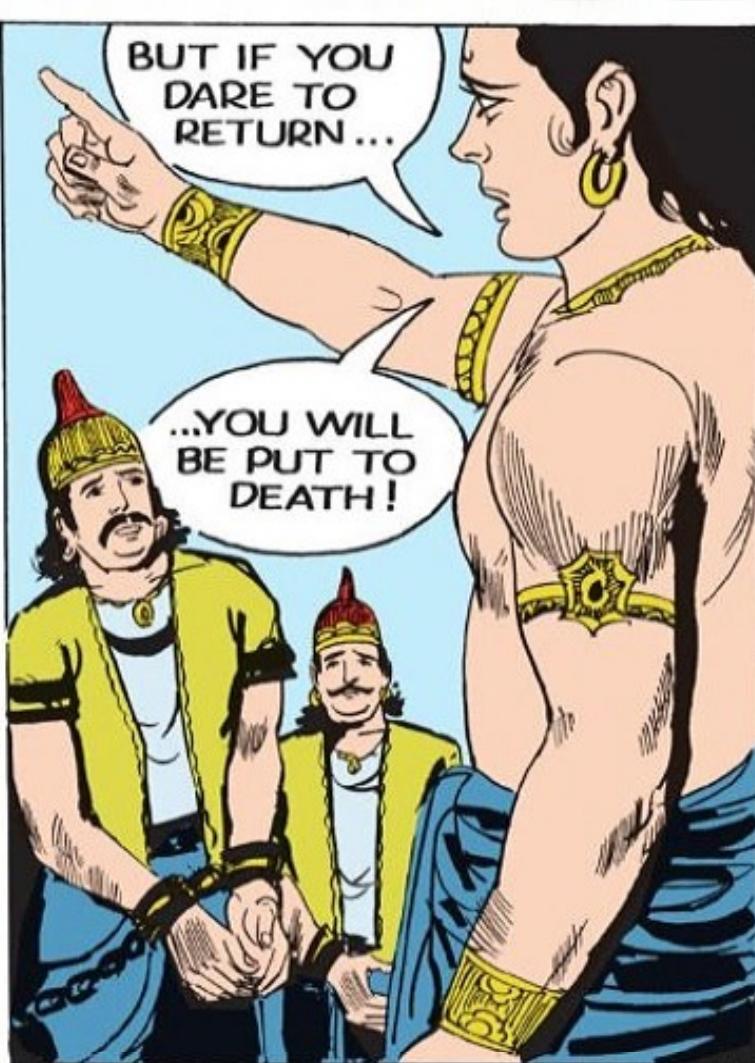
SPARE OUR
LIVES - WE
BEG OF YOU,
COMMANDER.

YOU WILL
BE BANISHED
FROM THIS
COUNTRY!



BUT IF YOU
DARE TO
RETURN ...

...YOU WILL
BE PUT TO
DEATH!



INFORMED OF THE SAKA DEBACLE, RAMAGUPTA AND DHRUVA DEVI ARRIVED ON THE SCENE.

I AM VERY PLEASED WITH YOU, CHANDRAGUPTA. YOU WILL BE REWARDED WELL.

I AM INDEBTED TO YOU, FOR EVER, PRINCE.



ON THEIR RETURN TO THE CAPITAL -

VICTORY TO CHANDRAGUPTA!

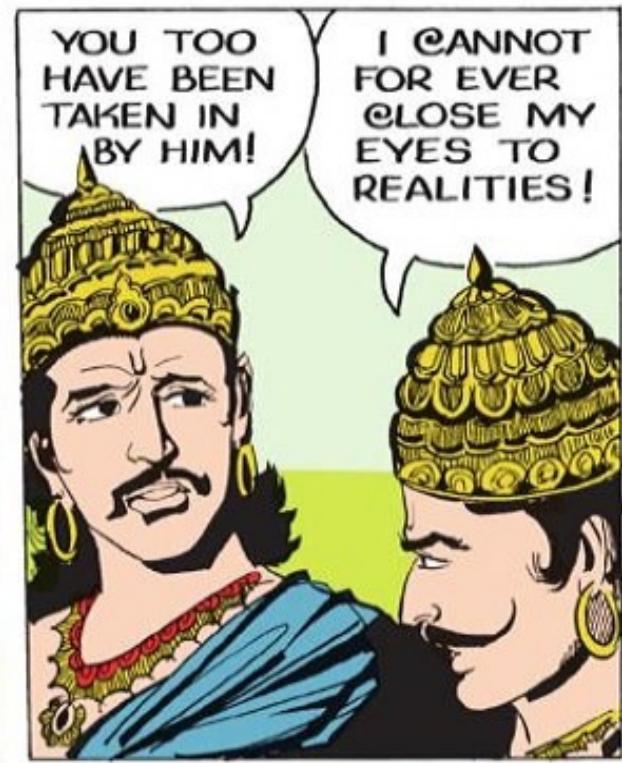
HAIL MAHARANI DHRUVA DEVI!

CHANDRAGUPTA WAS THE CHOSEN HEIR TO THE GUPTA THRONE!

MAHARAJ SAMUDRAGUPTA HAD HIMSELF NOMINATED HIM!

RAMAGUPTA IS A COWARD. HE HAS NO RIGHT TO BE THE KING.







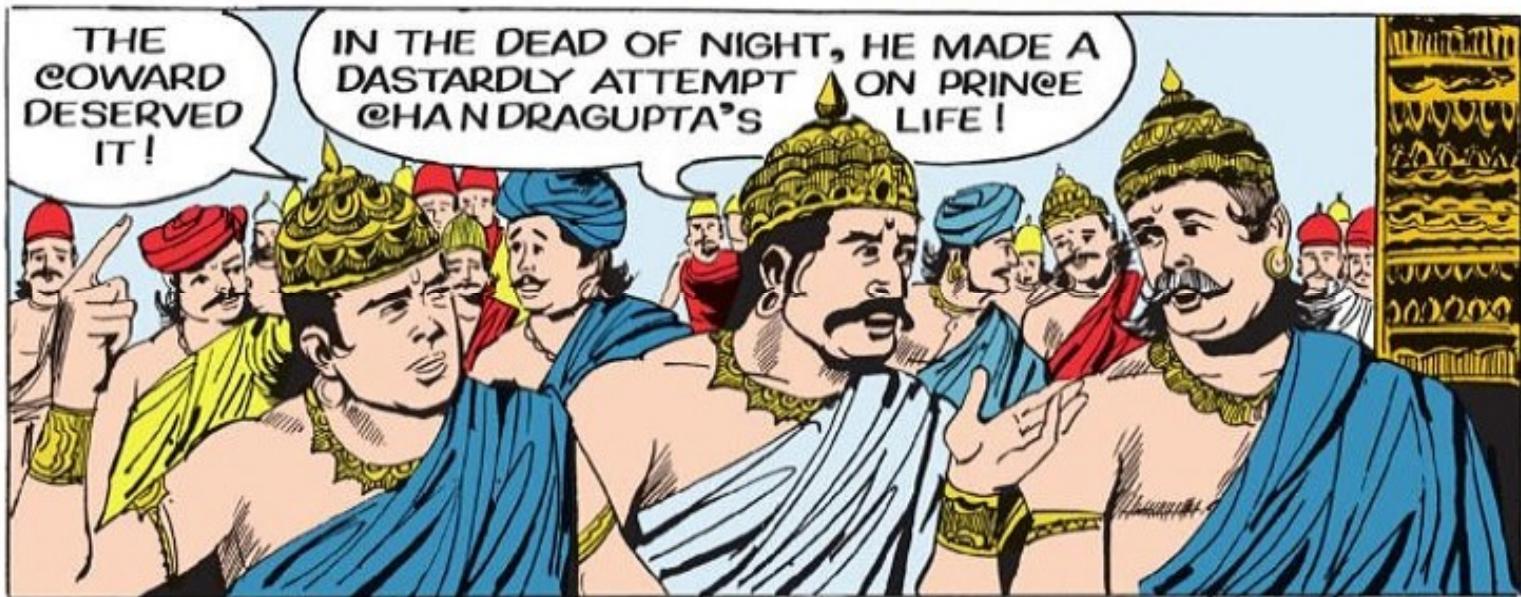
IN THE COURT NEXT DAY -

I HAVE
SAD NEWS
FOR YOU.
MAHARAJ
RAMAGUPTA
IS DEAD.



THE
COWARD
DESERVED
IT!

IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT, HE MADE A
DASTARDLY ATTEMPT ON PRINCE
CHANDRAGUPTA'S LIFE!



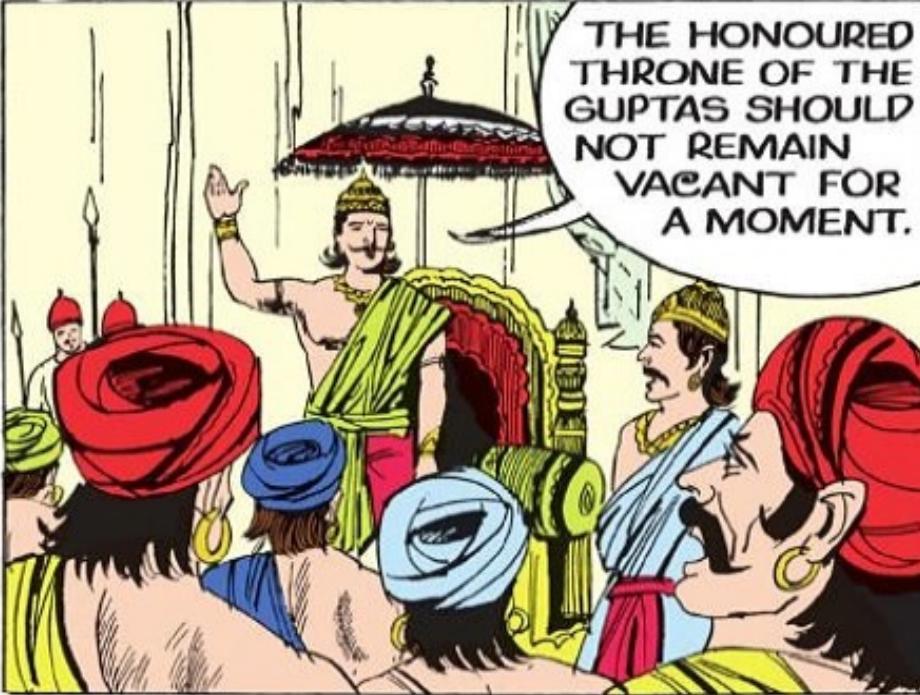
AT THAT MOMENT A THRONG OF PEOPLE ENTERED THE COURT.

VICTORY TO
CHANDRAGUPTA!

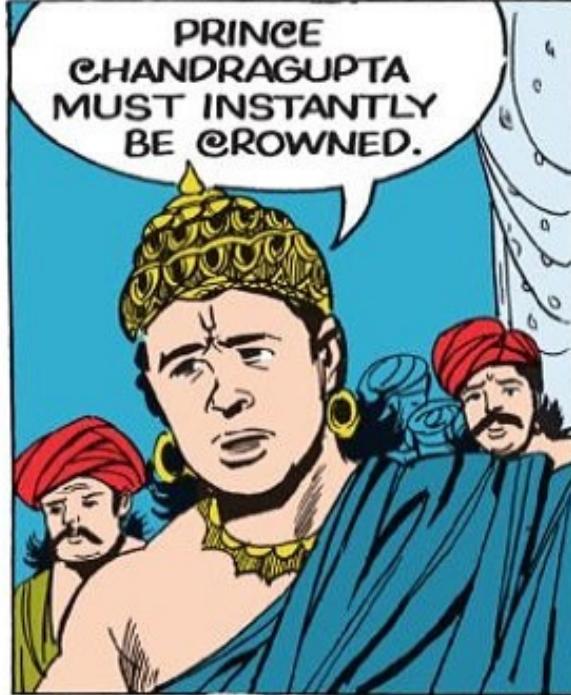
HE CAN SAFEGUARD THE
COUNTRY AND THE
GUPTA TRADITIONS!

YES,
PRINCE
CHANDRAGUPTA
IS THE
RIGHTFUL
HEIR TO THE
GUPTA
THRONE.





THE HONOURED THRONE OF THE GUPTAS SHOULD NOT REMAIN VACANT FOR A MOMENT.



PRINCE CHANDRAGUPTA MUST INSTANTLY BE CROWNED.



I HAVE A SERIOUS PROPOSAL TO MAKE TO YOU, GENTLEMEN!

IS HE AGAIN TRYING TO PLAY SOME MISCHIEF?

IT IS HE WHO SET PRINCE RAMAGUPTA ON THE THRONE.



PRINCE CHANDRAGUPTA SAVED THE HONOUR OF BOTH HIS COUNTRY AND HIS ANCESTORS.

SO HE REALISED IT AFTER ALL!

WE WILL LAY DOWN OUR LIVES FOR PRINCE CHANDRAGUPTA!

PRINCE CHANDRAGUPTA IS THE RIGHTFUL HEIR TO THE GUPTA THRONE!

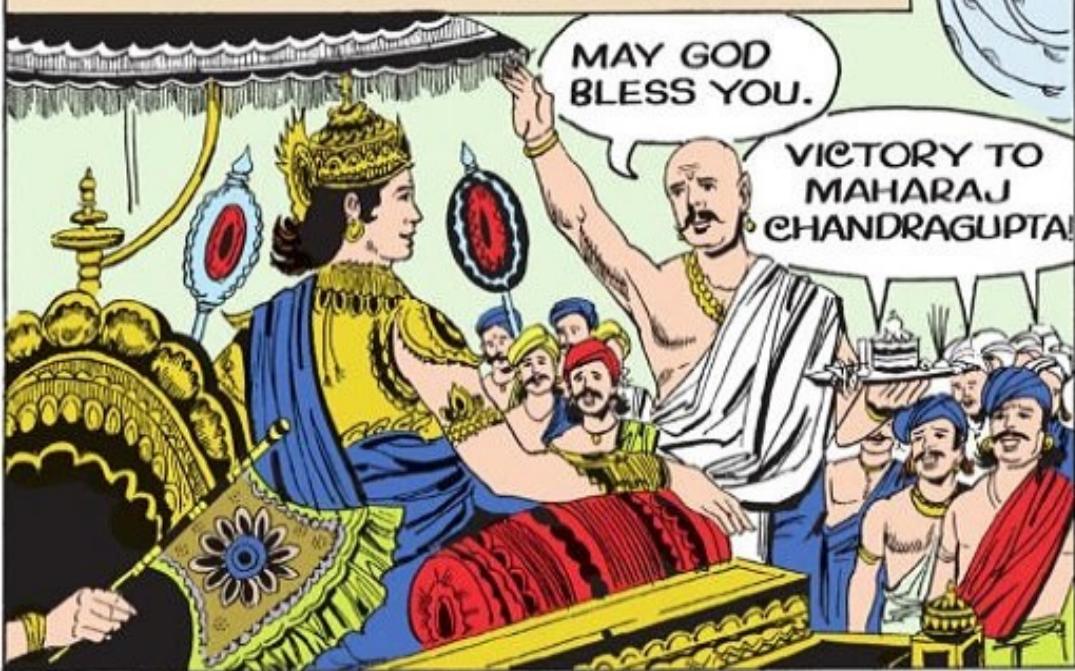
AND HE HAS THE RIGHT TO MARRY MAHARANI DHRUVA DEVI!

WELL SAID! PRINCE CHANDRAGUPTA SAVED HER FROM DISHONOUR.

YOUR HOLINESS, PLEASE COME UP.

THE WEDDING SHOULD BE PERFORMED RIGHT AFTER THE CROWNING CEREMONY.

AFTER THE CROWNING CEREMONY -



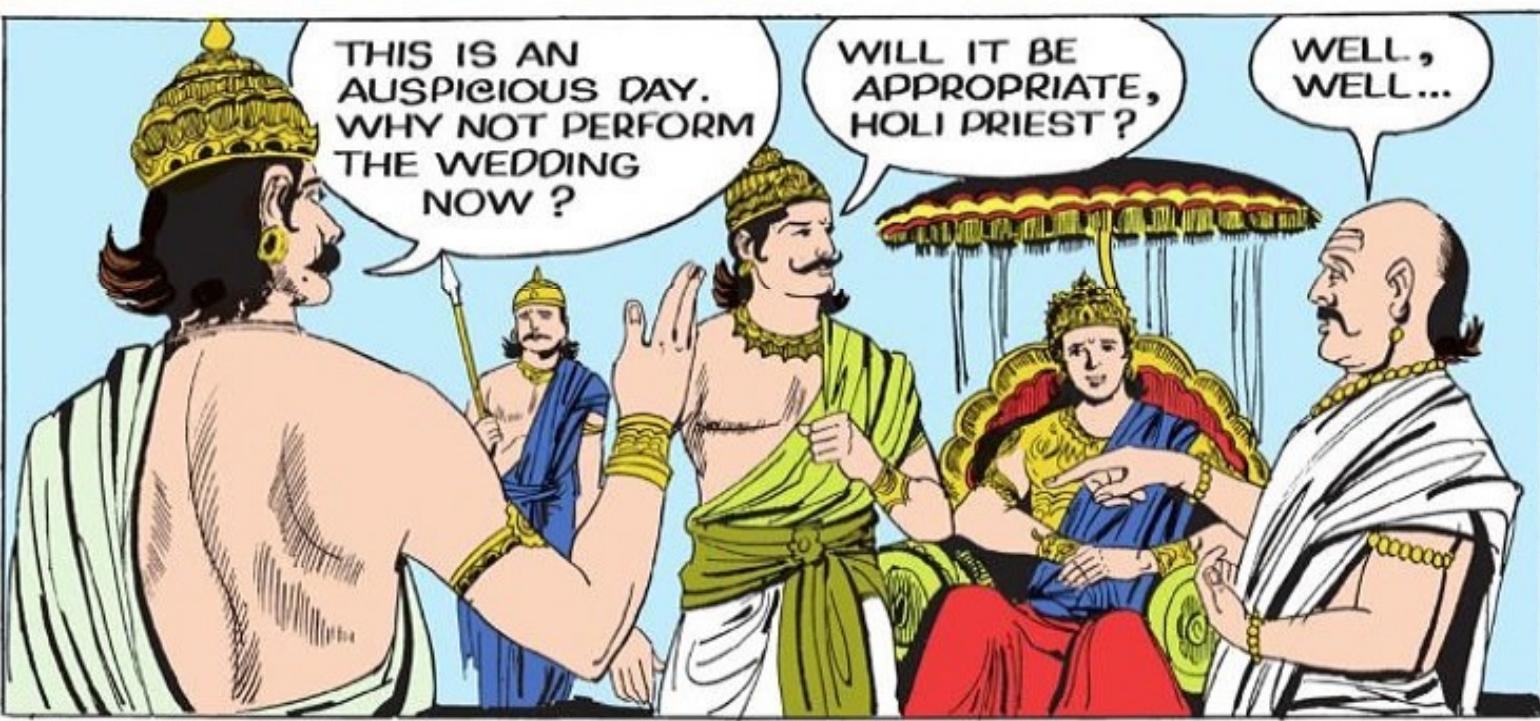
THE BURDEN OF DEFENDING THE COUNTRY IS NOW YOURS, MAHARAJ CHANDRAGUPTA.



THIS IS AN AUSPICIOUS DAY. WHY NOT PERFORM THE WEDDING NOW ?

WILL IT BE APPROPRIATE, HOLI PRIEST ?

WELL, WELL...



THE CONSENT OF MAHARAJ CHANDRAGUPTA AND MAHARANI DHRUVA DEVI HAS TO BE OBTAINED.

YOUR DECISION WILL BE BINDING ON ME !

I ACCEPT THE WILL OF MAHARAJ CHANDRAGUPTA, THE MINISTER AND OUR PEOPLE.



THE WEDDING WAS SOLEMNISED -



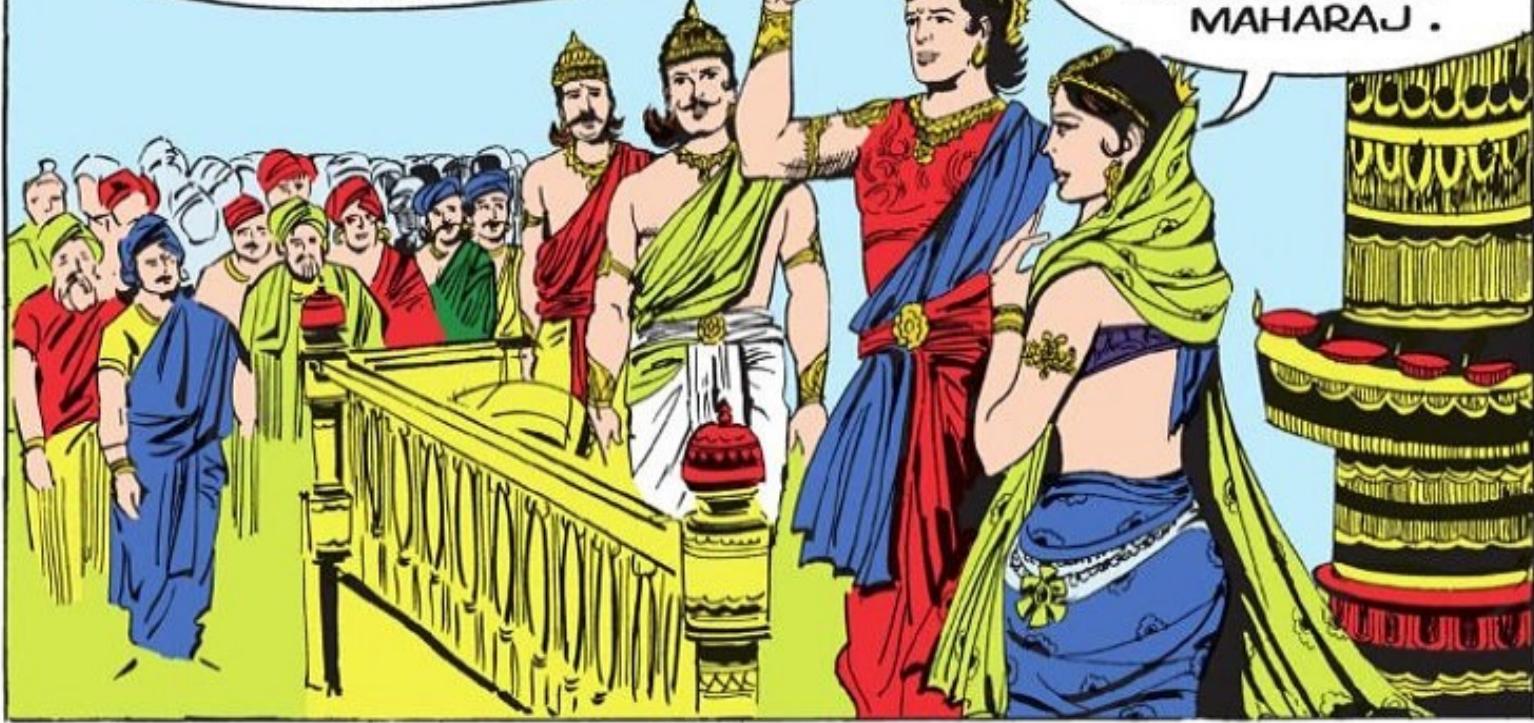
MINISTER, PLEASE
ASK THE PEOPLE TO
STAY AWHILE!

I HAVE TO MAKE
A SPECIAL
ANNOUNCEMENT.



MY COUNTRYMEN, AS YOU WILL BE MY WITNESS, I WILL NOT REST UNTIL I HAVE DRIVEN EVERY SINGLE SAKA OUT OF OUR COUNTRY.

IT WILL BE MY ENDEAVOUR TO KEEP THIS PROMISE ALIVE AND FRESH IN THE MIND OF OUR MAHARAJ.



DHRUVA DEVI KEPT HER WORD. ONE DAY, AT THE COURT IN UJJAINI -

YOU ARE A GREAT POET, KALIDASA ! I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE DRAMA 'SHAKUNTALA' ENACTED AGAIN NEXT FULL-MOON DAY. WOULDN'T YOU, DEVI ?

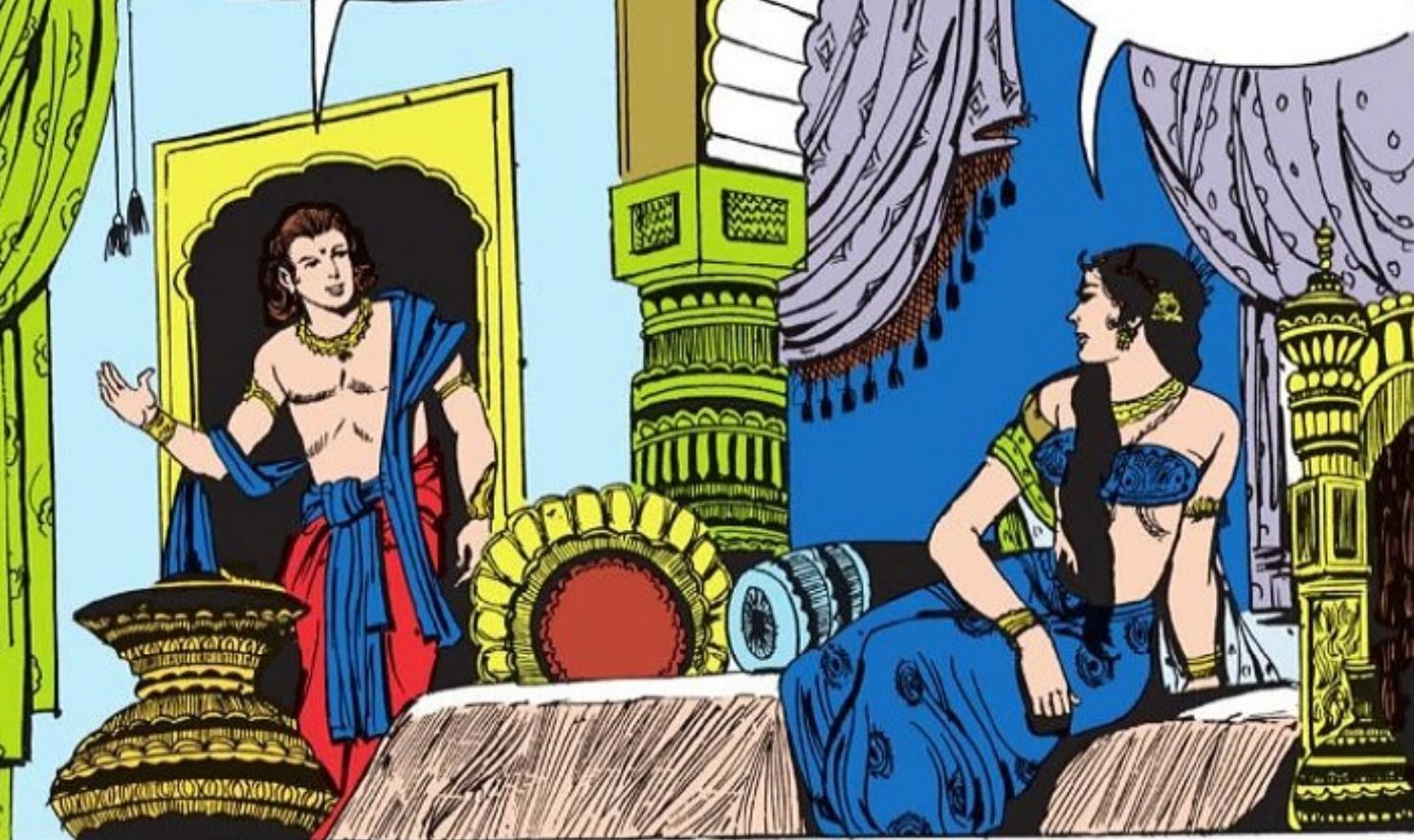
THERE IS GREAT CHARM IN THE POET'S WRITINGS. BUT MAHARAJ...



LATER IN THE PALACE -

DEVI, YOU WANTED
TO TELL ME SOMETHING
IN THE COURT THIS
EVENING. WHAT WAS IT?

MAHARAJ,
HAVEN'T WE
STAYED LONG
ENOUGH AT
THIS
PLACE?



I LIKE THE
PLACE.
I LIKE THE
PEOPLE.

THE PEOPLE HERE ADORE
YOU BECAUSE YOU FREED
THEM FROM SAKA DOMINATION.
THEY ALL REFER TO YOU
AS VIKRAMADITYA.
BUT...



BUT THE SAKAS
STILL RULE IN
GUJARAT. IS THAT
WHAT YOU WANT
TO REMIND ME
ABOUT ?

YES AND NEAR
THE BORDERS OF
THIS COUNTRY
THE KUSHANAS
HARASS OUR
PEOPLE .



SPURRED BY THE WORDS OF DHRUVA DEVI, CHANDRAGUPTA SOON
LEFT ON A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE SAKAS.

MAY VICTORY BE
WITH YOU !



MONTHS LATER -

MAHARANI,
A LETTER FOR
YOU FROM THE
EMPEROR .

THEN WHAT I HEARD
MUST BE RIGHT. THE
MAHARAJ MUST HAVE
WON THE BATTLE
AGAINST THE SAKAS
OF GUJARAT !



YES, MADHAVI. THE LAST VESTIGE OF FOREIGN RULE HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM OUR LAND...

...AND THE MAHARAJ WILL BE COMING BACK SOON.

GREAT NEWS!

PEOPLE GAVE AN ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME TO THEIR HERO ON HIS RETURN.



LATER CHANDRAGUPTA WENT AS FAR AS BACTRIA, BEYOND THE HINDU KUSH MOUNTAINS AND DEFEATED THE KUSHANAS TOO.

WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

EPICS AND MYTHOLOGY				
<i>Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas</i>				
Abhimanyu	Tales Of Shiva	Swami Chinmayananda	The Mouse Merchant	Baladitya And Yashodharma
Agastya	Tales Of Vishnu	Swami Pranavananda	True Friends	Balban
Andhaka	Tales Of Yudhishtira	Tales Of Sai Baba	Kanwal And Kehar	Banda Bahadur
Aniruddha	Tapati	Tansen	Kesari The Flying Thief	Bappa Rawal
Aruni And Uttanka	Thanjavur	Tulsidas	King Kusha	Beni Madho And Pir Ali
Ashwini Kumars	The Churning Of The Ocean	Vidyasagar	Manduka	Bhagat Singh
Ayyappan	The Gita	Vivekananda	PANCHATANTRA TALES	Bidhi Chand
Bahubali	The Golden Mongoose	Zarathushtra	Crows And Owls	Bimbisara
Bhanumati	The King In A Parrot's Body		How The Jackal Ate	Chand Bibi
Bheema And Hanuman	The Lord Of Lanka		The Elephant	Chandra Shekhar Azad
Bheeshma	The Pandava Princes		The Brahmin And	Chandragupta Maurya
Chandhrasha	The Pandavas In Hiding		The Goat	Chennamma Of Keladi
Dasharatha	The Parijata Tree		The Dullard	Dara Shukho And
Dhruba And Ashtavakra	The Sons Of Rama		The Greedy Mother-in-law	Aurangazeb
Draupadi	The Syamantaka Gem		The Jackal And	Durgadas
Drona	Tirupati		The Wardrum	Ellora Caves
Elephanta	Tripura		Raman Of Tenali	Hakka And Bukka
Gandhari	Uloopi		Raman The Matchless Wit	Hari Singh Nalwa
Ganesha	Vaishno Devi		Sahasramalla	Harsha
Ganesha And The Moon	Vali		Sakshi Gopal	Hemu
Ganga	Vishwamitra		Satwant Kaur	Humayun
Garuda	Yayati		Sharan Kaur	Jahangir
Ghatotkacha			Shrenik	Jallianwala Bagh
Hanuman			Sukhu And Dukhu	Kalpana Chawla
Hanuman To The Rescue			Sundari	Kochunni
Harischandra			Tales Of Maryada Rama	Krishnadeva Raya
Heroes Of Hampi			The Acrobat	Kunwar Singh
Indra And Shachi			The Adventures	Lachit Barphukan
Indra And Shibi			Of Agad Datta	Lalitaditya
Indra And Vritra			The Adventures Of	Mangal Pande
Jagannatha Of Puri			Baddu And Chhotu	Noor Jahan
Jayadratha			The Bridegroom's Ring	Padmini
Kacha And Devayani			The Celestial Necklace	Panna And Hadi Rani
Karna			The Clever Dancer	Paurava And Alexander
Kartikeya			The Cowherd Of Alawi	Prithviraj Chauhan
Konark			The Fearless Boy	Raja Bhoja
Krishna			The Fool's Disciples	Raja Raja Chola
Krishna And Jarasandha			The Golden Sand	Rana Kumbha
Krishna And Narakasura			The Green Demon	Rana Pratap
Krishna And Rukmini			The Unhappy Tiger	Rana Sanga
Krishna And Shishupala			The Learned Pandit	Rani Abbakka
Krishna And The False Vaasudeva			The Lost Prince	Rani Durgavati
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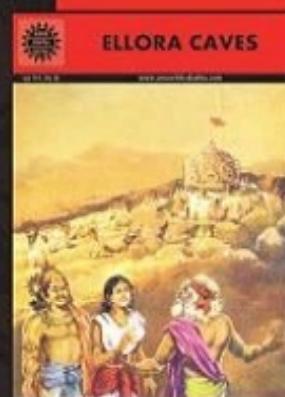
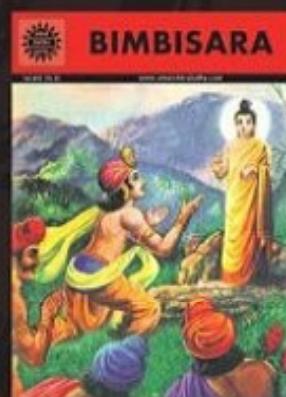
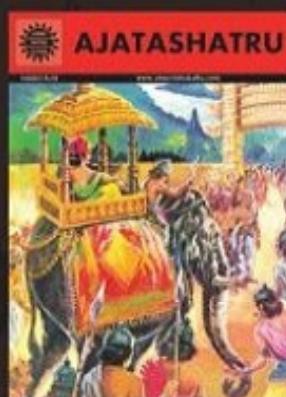
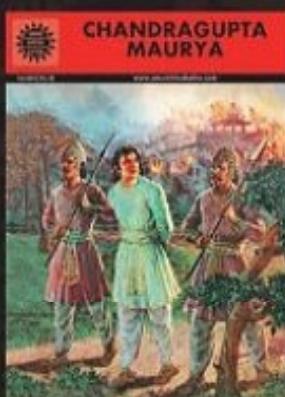


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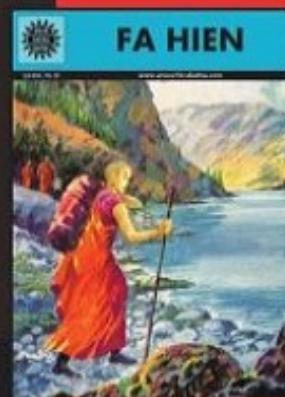
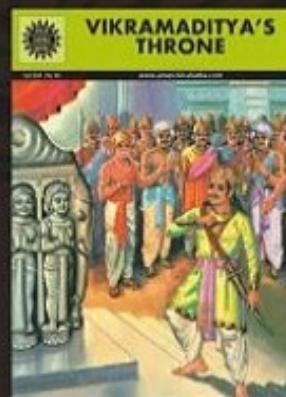
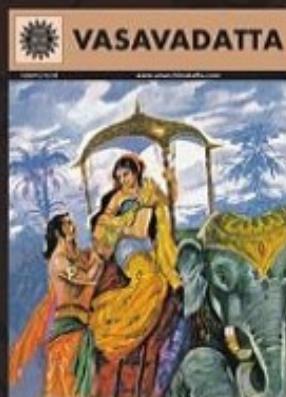
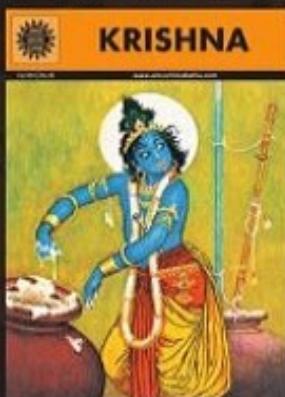
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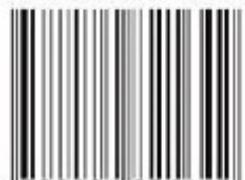
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